

LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Testimony in favor of Senate Bill (SB) 546 before the Senate Committee of
Judiciary, Corrections & Housing
March 6, 2008**

Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill (SB) 546 today that basically provides an option for counties across the state to address issues of drunken driving that has become a bane in our society.

I was sold on the idea of finding alternative avenues for addressing the high rates of recidivism for alcohol and other substance abuse, when the legislation that became 2005 Wisconsin Act 389 came before us during the last session. I wholly supported the pilot program that allowed Winnebago County to adopt this alternative approach that could potentially reduce an OWI offender's imprisonment as long as they are willing to participate and complete an intensive treatment program.

As we traveled the length and breadth of the state during our "State of the Justice" tours, I am sure you will agree with my finding that our prisons are overcrowded with occupants who may be better served by treatment and other diversionary methods.

I have been invited back to Winnebago County to witness the graduation of members of the pilot program's initial class. From the impressive statistics that are readily available, I am convinced that making this diversionary tool available to other counties' correctional programs would be invaluable. There is evidence of huge fiscal savings in jail costs alone. Not to mention a potential drop in the rate of recidivism. For Milwaukee County, the benefits would be immense! Projected savings include reduced court related time, property damage prevention, and reduction in cases of injury, death and family separation, amongst others.

Winnebago County's pilot program received broad bi-partisan support last session. We need to enable other counties statewide via statutory language, an opportunity to follow their footsteps. This is a win-win situation for all. It will keep our streets and motorists safe; treat addicted individuals and reform lives, while saving us all an inordinate amount of money!

I implore you to do what is right!

SAFE STREETS TREATMENT OPTION PROGRAM

(SSTOP) SUMMARY

December 2006 – December 2007

Statistical Information:

Total: **149 – 17** (revocation of which 6 were new OWI) = **132**
Females = **42**
Males = **107**
Age Range = **19 – 77**
2nd OWI = **64**
3rd OWI = **85**
BAC. avg. = **.20**
OWI Assessment = **110** (15 did not make assessment appointment)
AODA Assessment = **24** (owe \$196.00 for Driver Safety Plan)
Completed 12 month program = **12**

Treatment Referrals:

Multiple Offender Program (MOP)= **48**
Treatment = **73**
Revoked = **17**
Hearing pending = **11**
Complete Driver Safety Plan = **40**

Hard Cost Savings:

Jail:

Jail days: total = **7845**
imposed = **2193**
stayed = **5572**
revocations = **(1015)**

Jail savings: **5572 - 1015 = 4557 days x \$45 per day = \$205,065**

Community Service:

3965 hours ordered – **448** (revocation) = **3407** hours (completed **798**)

County Cost:

Treatment cost = **\$10,800**
Case manager = **\$55,000**
\$65,800

Recidivism Statistics:

Completed program: **0%**
Enrolled into program: **4%**
Statewide rate: **52.5%**

Information does not include the societal savings of SSTOP program including court related time, property damage, injury and death, family etc.